



Annual House Chamber Session
October 27-29th 2011
Des Moines, IA

What is Iowa Youth Congress?

The Iowa Youth Congress (IYC) brings students from across the state to discuss issues that affect youth as decided on by youth.

IYC is broken into five regions and each region meets in the fall to brainstorm and discuss proposals members bring to the meetings. These proposals are made by members regarding issues they see in their local communities or statewide. Once the bills have been discussed and voted on, the top three bills from each region are brought to the Annual House Chamber Session in Des Moines.

During the Annual House Chamber Session, all the members meet to debate and discuss their bills. The morning of the Annual House Chamber Session, members vote on officers who lead the IYC during the year, as well as explore the bills distributed into committees. The bills that are passed out of the committees are then presented to the entire Iowa Youth Congress that afternoon, where members further discuss and debate each bill. The bills receiving a majority of support, by the Congress, are then considered IYC's official bills. Members will ask the Legislature to introduce and support the bills selected into the Iowa General Assembly.

Any committed Iowa student can apply to be part of the IYC as long as they are in high school during the 2011-2012 school year. IYC strives to model itself after the Iowa House of Representatives and accepts 100 students to participate. It also hopes to end bias by providing underrepresented youth a voice in the legislature.

Besides running for an IYC officer position, there is also the opportunity for any member to become a Regional Chair. This position represents each region's opinion and helps the IYC Officers while lobbying the Iowa Legislature.

What is my commitment?

- Members are expected to participate for the full year.
- Members will attend all events unless they have been excused by IYC programmers.
- All Officers are expected to run and attend all meetings unless they have been excused.
- When participating in the Annual House Chamber Session members will dress appropriately. No jeans or t-shirts are allowed (black pants, kakis, skirts, a nice top, suits, or dresses are required).
- Members will respect one another and act in a responsible manner at all times.
- While in Des Moines, all members will follow the rules given to them at the beginning of the weekend. If any rules are broken that member may be asked to leave.
- Members will be expected to research bills they propose before all meetings.
- Members will attend the Annual Session in Des Moines and have transportation arrangements made with travel reimbursement available for those who drive and request it.
- Members are expected to write or contact their legislators after the Annual House Session, to gain support of the IYC bills.

How is IYC led?

President: Leads the Iowa Youth Congress at the Annual Session for the afternoon debates. During Post-Annual House Session, they will plan and set up meetings for IYC to lobby the General Assembly. They will also be the lead person representing the entire IYC.

Vice-President: Assists the President during the Annual House Session and takes the President's place if they are unable to attend or fulfill their duties.

Secretary: Will take notes at all IYC meetings and keep all members updated on its affairs.

Treasurer: Will lead the IYC fundraising activities and assist the other officers.

Regional Chairs: There are five members who are regional chairs representing and leading all activities/meetings for their particular region. There is frequent communication amongst the regional chairs and IYC leadership.

Application for Iowa Youth Congress
Return via fax to 515-242-6119 or via email to sara.schoneberg@iowa.gov

Name: _____ School: _____

Grade (2011-12): _____ E-mail: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Race/Ethnicity:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Black/African-American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/ Latino | <input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American | <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Interracial | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Please list any accommodations needed for you to attend the Iowa Youth Congress events, so that we can make adequate arrangements.

Have you participated in IYC before? Yes/No
If so, for how long? If not, how did you hear about the program?

Please answer these questions on a separate sheet of paper:

List your before/after school activities, as well as the times and days they take place.

Are you interested in being an officer? Yes/No

If yes, what would make you a good candidate? And what position would you be interested in?

Will you be able to participate in all activities of the program? Yes/No and why?

Essay Questions

Responses should be two to five sentences long.

1. Why are you interested in participating in the Iowa Youth Congress?
2. What issues or causes interest you?
3. Have you ever been able to voice your opinion in front of a large group of people, both adults and youth? If yes, please explain, if not please tell us what kind of workshops would help you become more confident in speaking to the group?
4. What specifically interests you in the legislative process? If nothing, explain why you would be interested in this program and how it would benefit you?
5. Is there anything else you would like to share with us about yourself?

Please sign here to verify the above information given is accurate.

Signature of Youth _____ Date _____

_____ has my permission to participate in the Iowa Youth Congress in 2011-2012.

Signature of Parent/Guardian:

Date:

Please list weekend dates you will be unavailable during the Fall Semester, to assist us in selecting the meeting dates.
